

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 391437
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R 201915Z DEC 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS
XMT AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 291437 ACTION NAIROBI INFO JERUSALEM
TELAVIV PARIS USUN NEW YORK 30 NOV 76

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, OCON, IN COGN VI

IORACT: UNESCO: US ASSESSMENT OF 19TH GENERAL CONFERENCE
RESULTS: PRESS GUIDANCE

FOLLOWING SHOULD BE DRAWN UPON BY USDEL IN RESPONDING
TO PRESS QUERIES CONCERNING US ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS OF
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THE 19TH GENERAL CONFERENCE UPON CLOSURE. DEPARTMENT
PRESS SPOKESMAN WILL BE USING SAME GUIDANCE ON AN IF
ASKED BASIS.

QUESTION: WHAT IS THE US ASSESSMENT OF THIS UNESCO
GENERAL CONFERENCE?

ANSWER: WHILE WE WERE DISAPPOINTED THAT THE CONFERENCE ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS UNJUSTIFIABLY CRITICAL OF ISRAEL ON TWO ISSUES--THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND JERUSALEM--WE WERE REASSURED THAT THE CONFERENCE REVERSED ONE OF THE MOST OBJECTIONABLE 1974 GENERAL CONFERENCE DECISIONS AND ADMITTED ISRAEL TO THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL GROUP. MOREOVER, NO NEW EXCLUSIONARY OR DISCRIMINATORY STEPS WERE TAKEN AGAINST ISRAEL--AND THE CONFERENCE REJECTED ATTEMPTS TO REVIVE OR ENDORSE THE ZIONISM/RACISM EQUATION. IN ADDITION, THE CONFERENCE ACTION ON THE SUBJECT OF THE MASS MEDIA WAS BASICALLY REASONABLE AND

MODERATE: THE CONFERENCE DID NOT ACT ON A DRAFT DECLARATION UNACCEPTABLE TO US AND MANY OTHER MEMBERS. INSTEAD, IT INVITED THE DIRECTOR GENERAL TO CONSULT WIDELY ABOUT A NEW DRAFT--LEAVING THE WAY OPEN FOR US AND OTHERS TO URGE AN APPROACH QUITE DIFFERENT FROM THAT IN THE UNACCEPTABLE DRAFT, AND CALLING EXPLICITLY FOR A DRAFT WHICH WILL ELICIT "THE LARGEST POSSIBLE MEASURE OF AGREEMENT." FINALLY, WE DETECTED AT THIS CONFERENCE AN ATMOSPHERE WHICH WELCOMED DIALOGUE AND CONSENSUS AND, WITH SOME EXCEPTIONS, MODERATION--A SPIRIT WHICH SOME HAVE CALLED THE "SPIRIT OF NAIROBI", IN PART BECAUSE IT REFLECTED THE CONSTRUCTIVE EFFORTS OF MANY AFRICAN MEMBERS.

QUESTION: WHAT ARE THE PROSPECTS FOR RESUMED PAYMENT OF DUES BY THE US TO UNESCO?

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ANSWER: THE 1974 LEGISLATION SUSPENDING OUR FUNDING OF UNESCO REQUIRES THAT THERE BE A PRESIDENTIAL CERTIFICATION TO CONGRESS THAT UNESCO HAS TAKEN CONCRETE STEPS TO CORRECT THE CONTROVERSIAL POLITICAL DECISIONS OF THE LAST GENERAL CONFERENCE. WE ARE JUST BEGINNING OUR OWN ANALYSIS OF THE OVERALL RESULTS OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE AND THEREFORE CANNOT MAKE ANY DEFINITIVE COMMENT ON THE QUESTION OF RECOMMENDING A CERTIFICATION. WE ALSO CONSIDER IT IMPORTANT TO CONSULT AND EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH PRIVATE AND GOVERNMENT CIRCLES HAVING A PARTICULAR INTEREST OR STAKE IN UNESCO, INCLUDING THE US NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO. CERTAINLY AS WE CONSIDER WHETHER A PRESIDENTIAL CERTIFICATION SHOULD BE RECOMMENDED, WE WILL HAVE IN MIND THE SEVERAL VERY CONSTRUCTIVE DECISIONS, AS WELL AS THE NEGATIVE EVENTS, THAT OCCURRED IN NAIROBI.

ROBINSON.
UNQUOTE KISSINGER.

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